

“Here is Your Son...Your Mother”

(Series: CrossWords; Message Three)
John 19:23-27

“It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35)

*“Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it”
(Luke 9:24)*

*“A prophet is not without honor except in his own town and in his own home”
(Matthew 13:57)*

*“Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or
fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life”
(Matthew 19:29)*

- A. Why do we have to be willing to leave those we love (and love us)? Can sacrifice get any more sacrificial than that!
- B. This third word of Jesus is the offer of a new family in the midst of old clothes

OLD CLOTHES (19:23-24)

- A. The probability of nakedness increases the humiliation of the cross
 - 1. It was standard practice for the soldiers to divide the victim’s garments
 - 2. Jesus is legally and literally stripped of all human dignity
- B. The inner garment was traditionally given to the son by his mother
 - “They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my one piece of clothing they cast lots” (Psalm 22:18)*
 - 1. The soldiers appear totally unaware that the central event in all world history is taking place right in front of them
 - 2. Biblical prophecy (e.g., the Suffering Servant in Isaiah 53 and the Innocent Righteous of Psalm 22) is being brought to mind and fulfilled
 - 3. The seamless robe (one piece “from the top down”) is a reminder of Jesus’ Prayer in John 17 that His Church be one seamless united Church

NEW FAMILY (19:25-27)

- A. Jesus first *CrossWord* in John’s Gospel is about caring for his mother and friend
 - 1. These words are enough to bring two people Jesus loves together to form the nucleus of His family - the Holy Catholic (Universal) Church
 - 2. Jesus isn’t only taking care of his mother and friend; he is creating a

new community that will bear fruitful witness to him in the world...

3. And the Family of God, the Church, is born

B. “Woman, here is your Son”

- 1. Jesus expresses his concern for his mother; he hasn’t forgotten her
- 2. Nor has Jesus forgotten you or me...

C. “Son, here is Your Mother”

- 1. John bailed; he didn’t hang around; but he comes back to stand with Jesus
- 2. Jesus’ response? He extends grace to John and trusts his mother to his care
- 3. Why didn’t Jesus ask one of his brothers to step in and care for his mother?
 - a. Because according to John 7:5, his brothers didn’t believe in Jesus; because Jesus wants his disciples to care for those he loves
 - b. We’re called to be his body (the Church) - to share his heart and mission, to minister with those in need: “*Church, here is your mission!*”

SAYING GOODBYE

- A. Mary now stands at the cross watching her son slowly die
 - 1. She had learned to love her son from a distance: from the edge of the crowd, outside a packed house, on the shore of the sea, and from the foot of the cross
 - 2. Mary isn’t the first or only one to be called to say goodbye to loved ones and make sacrifices for the sake of the kingdom
 - a. The Bible is bound together with goodbyes and stained with farewell tears
 - b. “Goodbye” is a word all too common in the Christian’s vocabulary
- B. What kind of God gives you a family and then asks you to leave them?
 - 1. Answer: A God who knows that the deepest love is built on a common mission and sacrifice
 - 2. Answer: A God who knows that we are only pilgrims and that eternity is so close that any “Goodbye” is in reality, “See you tomorrow!”
 - 3. Answer: A God who did it himself
 - 4. Answer: A God who is passionate about having his mission fulfilled
 - 5. Answer: A God who knows the family he is calling us to is even better than the one he’s asking us to leave behind
- C. In their silent glance, they shared a moment. Then Jesus said goodbye